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OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH IN OUNDLE IN 1964

THE ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1964.

SUBMITTED BY

Alexander Gatherer, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices,
6 North Street,
Oundle.

OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1964.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report on the health of Oundle during the year 1964.

The health of Oundle remains highly satisfactory, the birth rate well above and the death rate well below the national average. In 1964 there were no stillbirths, no maternal deaths and only one infant death. All but a few of the deaths were caused by diseases of old age, such as degenerative conditions of the heart and blood vessels, chronic respiratory disease and cancer.

Two causes of deaths last year deserve a mention - the first being the death of a young person from a motor vehicle accident, showing that all hazards in our environment are not yet under our control; and secondly, the appearance of coronary heart disease as a killer in middle aged men, with two deaths in 1964. At present, we can only guess at the reason for this modern epidemic of coronary disease, but it appears likely that modern habits of life, our diet, cigarette smoking, and pattern of physical activity all play a part. If so, then only health education of the public is available as a preventive measure.

It is a pleasure for me to express my sincere thanks to the many people on whose efforts the health of Oundle depends - to members of the Oundle Urban District Council and to my fellow officers; to the general practitioners; to the voluntary societies; to the County Medical Officer of Health and his staff; to Mr. R. E. T. Chinnery who so ably carries the day-to-day responsibilities; and to everyone who accepts that the health of the community is his concern.

I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

A. GATHERER,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE:

Medical Officer of Health:
A. Gatherer, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Surveyor, Water Engineer & Public Health Inspector:
R. E. T. Chinnery, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., Cert. S.I.B.

District Nurses:
Miss L. L. Misson and Miss E. M. Cates.

Health Visitor: Miss K. Pulley.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Population: Estimated mid-year population - 3,450.

Live births:	Male	Female
Legitimate	30	22
Illegitimate	1	Nil
	31	22

Live birth rate (corrected):

20.1 per 1,000 population (England and Wales 18.4).

Illegitimate live births:

1.9 per cent of total live births.

Stillbirths: Nil.

Total live and stillbirths:	31	22
Infant deaths (under 1 year):..	1	Nil

Maternal deaths: Nil.

Total deaths:	22	20

Death rate (corrected):

8.1 per 1,000 population (England and Wales 11.3).

Causes of death:

Cardiovascular diseases ..	11	13
Malignant diseases	3	Nil
Respiratory diseases	4	3
Other causes	4	4
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	22	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Notifications: Measles 9

Suspected Food Poisoning 1

WATER SUPPLY:

The water supply throughout Oundle Urban District has been satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Bacteriological tests on samples have all been reported as very satisfactory.

FACTORY ACT:

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspection by the Public Health Inspector for the purposes of provisions concerning health.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	16	16	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	1	1	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
	17	17	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found - none.

Part VIII of the Act.

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) - Nil.

December 1965.

O U N D L E U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1964

SUBMITTED BY:-

R. E. T. CHINNERY, F.F.S., M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
6, North Street,
OUNDLE,
Nr. Peterborough.

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OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Surveyor and Public Health Inspector for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

1. Water Supplies.

The year under review was the first full calender year for which the Nene & Ouse Water Board, within whose area the Urban Distric lies, was entirely responsible for water supply and distribution in this district.

Samples taken during the year were all reported as being bacteriologically 'very satisfactory'. A periodic check is taken of the residual chlorine content of the water as supplied to consumers, to ensure sterility after the filtration and chlorination treatment given at the source.

The Water Board found it necessary to continue restrictions on the use of hosepipes throughout the year, but essential supplies were maintained at adequate pressures.

2. Sewerage & Sewage Disposal.

The new sewage disposal works, which came into full operation in 1963, produced a good effluent consistently throughout the year.

It became obvious, however, through flooding of certain premises at times of very heavy rainfall that measures would have to be taken to exclude as much road and other surface water as possible from the foul water sewers. The Council's Consulting Engineers submitted recommendations for a surface water drainage scheme dealing with the Glapthorne Road and New Road area and at the end of the year this had been approved in principle and the scheme was being prepared in detail.

3. Housing.

(a) Provision of New Houses by the Local Authority.

The Inkerman Yard clearance and re-development scheme was completed during the year, by the building of 3 Old Person's Bungalows in the former Victoria Yard and the terrace of 4 stone finished houses fronting West Street.

Although there may be some natural feelings of regret at the disappearance of some of the old property which has been demolished on this site, the Council can rightly feel justified when the result is viewed; in place of the former 26 stone built cottag es, some almost derelict, and all sub standard, occupying only half of the site, there now stand 15 pleasant, warm and comfortable bungalows for old people, with all modern amenities, and the four stone finished houses fronting West Street, which are of modern design but blend with other buildings.

Re-development of this kind, if carried out with discrimination and care must surely be accepted as necessary and inevitable, in order to improve housing standards and to replace where necessary, old and worn-out dwellings where modernisation is impracticable.

Towards the end of the year work was commenced upon the erection of a further 29 dwellings, comprising 10 two-bedroomed bungalows and

19 three-bedroomed houses, upon the Council's Springfield Road Housing Estate.

(b) Private Enterprise Housing.

No new houses were completed during the year for private owners; this emphasized the difficulty, referred to in previous reports, experienced by prospective house builders in finding sites in Oundle.

At the end of the year 5 private houses were in course of construction, 3 Of these being on the estate off the Cotterstock Road, where roads, sewers, and other public services are being provided by the Council to open up 12½ acres of excellent building land, comprising 50 building plots for sale to prospective private owners.

(c) Unfit Houses.

A housing survey was undertaken, 878 houses being classified according to condition and practicability of repair and modernisation as follows:

Category I		Fit for habitation or with minor defects only.	614
"	2	For repair and/or modernisation.	212
"	3	For Demolition Order or Clearance Area proceedure	52
		Total:	878.

The Category 3 houses above were further classified as follows:

For repair & improvement by owners.	4
Demolition procedure to be deferred.	2
Undertakings not to relet.	2
For Demolition Order procedure.	25
For Clearance Order procedure.	19
	52.

Negotions were commenced for the purchase by agreement of 16 houses recommended for Clearance Area procedure together with surrounding land considered necessary for proper re-development; by the end of the year these had not been completed.

(d) Grants for Conversion or Improvements.

Seven grants for the provisions of Standard Amenities were approved during the year as against 8 the previous year, while one application for a Discretionary Grant was approved as against nil the previous year.

Every effort has been made to make the advantages of this system of grants towards the cost of modernisation and improvement known to both tenants and landlords, but the number of applications remains regrettably small, particularly in respect of rented houses.

The Housing Act, 1964 ~~impairs~~ EMPOWERS local authorities to declare Improvement Areas, in which at least half the sub-standard houses must be capable of being raised to the full standards prescribed, and to require the owners to carry out improvements. The Council may well have to consider implementing these powers in the future, although the present complete lack of technical assistance to the holder of the joint appointment of Surveyor and Public Health Inspector means that there just is not sufficient time for any one person to carry out all his various duties fully.

(e) Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A regular weekly collection was maintained throughout the year with more frequent collections from shops and the School boarding houses. Waste paper is collected from houses during the normal

refuse collection but a special weekly collection is made of paper, container waste etc. from shops: this is sold and the income does something to affect the cost of the service generally.

We are fortunate in being able to maintain sufficient staff to keep this service going efficiently, but in Oundle, as indeed, everywhere else, the amount of refuse collected increases every year making the task more and more difficult.

It is often forgotten that after collection, the refuse has to be disposed of without nuisance. The Council's controlled tip is well maintained, levelled and covered with soil and/or ashes. We have sufficient land for disposal purposes for a few years yet but in the fairly near future another site will have to be found.

5. Public Conveniences, Cemetery & Churchyard.

These were maintained to a satisfactory standard throughout the year. Regular daily cleansing of the public conveniences, including week-ends, does not however prevent the all too prevalent efforts of would be poets scrawling in the usual obscene language on any surface available. All fittings that can be damaged and can be removed have been taken outside the conveniences and the amount of damage which can now be done is considerably reduced.

6. Slaughter houses, Food Inspection.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

Visits are paid to food premises, including retail shops, particularly during the summer months, and the co-operation of Food Traders generally, in maintaining a high standard of equipment and food handling hygiene in general is very much appreciated.

During the year the following amounts of unsound food were surrendered voluntarily.

22lbs.	tinned fruit.
2lbs.	tinned pork.
1lb.	tinned jam.

I am indebted to the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, Northants. County Council for the following details of samples taken in Oundle by his Inspectors:

SAMPLES TAKEN IN OUNDLE URBAN DISTRICT IN THE 15 MONTHS ENDING 31st MARCH 1965.

MILK	28
MEAT PRODUCTS	2
SPIRITS	5
MEAT PASTE	1
BUTTER	1
FISH PRODUCTS	2
JAM AND MARMALADE	2
CAKE	1
	42

REMARKS.

It is pleasing to be able to report that all samples taken in the Urban District during the fifteen months were found to be completely satisfactory.

SALE OF FOOD (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES) ACT, 1926.

During the course of a routine visit to an Oundle shop an inspector saw a number of packets of sweets on display, accompanied by a notice describing them as "$\frac{3}{4}$ lbs". All the packets were short by amounts ranging from 1 oz. $5\frac{1}{2}$ drams to 1 oz. Enquiries revealed that the wholesaler who supplied the sweets had described them in his invoice as being 12 oz. whereas the manufacturers had described them as "bags" without any reference to the weight.

In the circumstances legal proceedings were taken against the wholesalers and a fine of £5. with 5 guineas costs was imposed at the Kettering Magistrates Court.

Other deficiencies found were of a minor nature and were dealt with by advice or caution at the time of detection.

F. J. EVANS,

Chief Inspector.

Weights and Measures Department,
Market Street,
KETTERING.

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7. Disinfection, Disinfestation.

No action was necessary during the year.

8. Rodent Control.

One of the Councils employees has received special training in this work, and all infestations were dealt with as they arose.

All Council owned properties, particularly the refuse and sewage disposal sites are kept clear, private houses and gardens are dealt with free of charge, while payment is demanded for treatment of trade premises.

The agreement with Oundle School, under which the Council undertakes, on a fixed payment basis, to deal with infestations at all School premises, continues to operate satisfactorily to both parties.

9. General.

This Report once again can only touch briefly upon those aspects of the years work upon which Annual Reports are required by the Ministry of Health.

Detailed statistics or financial details are not included as these have been furnished to the Council, the appropriate Committee, or to the Ministry at the appropriate time: the compiling of them again for the purpose of this report would place an undue strain on the small general office staff.

My thanks and appreciation are due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued helpfulness and support during the year, and I am sure the Council would join with me in expressing appreciation to the outside staff for the way in which they maintain those essential public services which we take so much for granted.

Yours faithfully,

R. E. T. CHINNERY,
Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.